

Bartlet For The Multiverse
A West Wing fanfic that ties into the lore of my fiction
By
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The year is 2025 and Jed Bartlet is in the Whitehouse once again. The former President is not what he was. His hair has gone grey and started to thin and he has a noticable paunch that everybody is too polite to mention.

Toby Ziegler is walking alongside him through the building that was once so familiar to them both. The once disgraced member of Staff for the whitehouse was the only one to attend when Bartlet called. Josh and Sam had worked for the Santos administration and when the public had elected a Republican they had taken it as a sign that they should quietly retire from politics - at least for a while.

"I would have thought Charlie would have attended." said Toby when he realised he was the only one from the old days that had answered the former President's call for help.

"Toby, the Republican Party of 2025 is a far cry from the Republican party of our day but even so I don't blame Charlie for refusing to step foot in a Republican held West Wing." said Jed dismissively.

"They're calling this the golden age of the Republican Party. Pro abortion. Pro gun control. Pro proportional representation and anti-corruption. They've invested in green energy, in queer progressive sex education and announced taxes on big business, large bonuses and set up task forces to tackle corruption. They're saying the prisons are now more full of white collar criminals than drug offenders for the first time since the war on drugs began."

"Well they ended the war on drugs didn't they. That oughta help."

"No, Sir, they just changed how they fought the war. They went after the societal factors that drive people to seek comfort in drugs. They instituted sweeping welfare reforms that made access to funds for the unemployed and the homeless much easier, they raised the minimum wage to the living wage and banned zero hour contracts and unpaid internships. They made the American dream achievable by saying that if you fall the American government will catch you and help you get back on your feet."

Jed yelled "THEY'RE REPUBLICANS!" He caught himself. "Damnit." He whispered "But they are, Toby. They don't stop being the enemy just because they changed tack."

"Oh, I know." said Toby then he leaned close and to the former President and smiled. "The new Democratic Party leadership is furious with how rightwing they are. Still no single payer healthcare service. Still no universal basic income. To say nothing of the outrage from women and blacks about the lack of representation within the party."

Jed nodded then he smiled. "Can't do anything right, can they?"

"No, Sir." said Toby.

"You can go in now." said an aide.

Jed Bartlet and Toby Ziegler entered the Oval Office.

President Cliff Calley stood up from behind his desk and beamed as the older gentlemen approached. "Mr President it's an honour to meet you." He shook Jed's hand warmly then turned to Toby. "Mr Ziegler, the crime for which you were so disgraced represents in my mind the finest spirit of the new Republican Party so I'd like to thank you for saving not just those men but my party and this country."

Toby was stunned, unaware of how long the handshake was going on.

President Calley released his hand. "I know that's hardly a compliment to you but I mean it. You sacrificed your career, your freedom and your reputation to save people. That is what I want the new Republican Party to be all about. We are your obedient servants."

"Toby Ziegler lost for words. They said you were remarkable but I never believed it until now." said Jed.

The President laughed. "Of course I owe it to you and Santos for dragging the American people and the American Press kicking and screaming to the left."

Jed smiled. "That's very kind but I didn't come here to be praised."

President Calley nodded as the laughter died. He cleared his throat then said. "You mentioned something about a tablet computer and an unusual device?"

"I trust it's been cleared by security?" asked Jed.

Calley smiled. "Well they've decided it's not a bomb or a weapon but truthfully they don't know what it does. I've convinced them that given the lack of any imminent or obvious signs of danger that the usual level of protection for a presidential meeting is secure enough but you'll understand if the room swarms with secret service and I am whisked away won't you?"

Jed laughed.

Toby blinked. He was back on task. "Did the President tell you about how he happened to obtain the devices?"

"No." said Calley.

"Me neither." said Toby. "He just said it was too weird to explain but that it was not some enemy agent."

"Well I suppose I don't actually know that they aren't working for an enemy but if they are they're not working an enemy we already know." mused Jed.

"Sir?" asked Toby carefully. He coughed awkwardly.

"Jed, I was there on Ways And Means when you had that business about your MS-" began Calley awkwardly.

"Yes, you censured me." said Jed dryly.

"Yes and I welcomed your reelection. Heck I voted for you. I have welcomed Toby Ziegler into my

Whitehouse and I welcome you so please tell me what happened. I don't care how outlandish you think it sounds. The finest minds in the American secret service are baffled by what you presented my staff with. I know that something unusual happened and while I may be more inclined to believe in foreign intelligence services than aliens, humanity itself is proof that intelligent alien life can exist in the universe. Try me."

Jed looked wary but shrugged. "Okay, you'll both think I'm mad but okay."

"Well that's okay, Sir, we already know you're mad." said Toby lightly.

"Well that's true I suppose." said Jed thoughtfully then he sighed and explained. "Alright, about a month ago I was on my own in the lounge of my house and was quietly reading because Abby was upstairs sleeping. Suddenly there was a great flash of green light and a gale. A tablet computer appeared on the table beside me. It was switched on and showing and showing an ebook reading app. Specifically it was showing the front paged of a bunch of different books I had never seen before. Books with titles like 'Trump: The Terror Tyrant' 'Obama: The Failed Messiah' and 'Biden: The Liberal Loser' If that was all that had happened I'd probably have just assumed I hadn't seen it before and that the books were works of science fiction. Especially when I found the books in the other collections."

"Other collections?" asked Toby. He frowned. "You told me that the tablet contained biographies of figures of from history that never existed. What could the other collections say that could be more science fiction than a global pandemic and a reality tv star becoming president?"

"How about history books covering the development of thinking robots, the culture of a race of cyborg sharks and the history of wars waged across something called the multiverse?" asked Jed curiously.

Toby swallowed. "Okay..."

"And this is the part you felt comfortable telling me and my staff about?" asked Calley.

"Well, yeah. The thing exists. You can read about the Contravoxai, the Charicthy and the Septagonoids. You can dismiss it as fiction but the documents undeniably exist." said Jed defensively then he sighed. "I know how ridiculous it sounds but at least I have something substantive to back up what I'm saying. Which is more than can be said about what happened next."

"This is a safe space, Mr President. No one in this room will ridicule you." said Calley.

Toby nodded.

"Okay." Jed shrugged then shoved his hands in his trouser pockets and looked off to the side as he recounted from memory. "There was another blast of light but this time it didn't go away immediately so I looked up to it. There was a ring of whirling green light in the center of my living room. It was about two meters across and just before me. There was this young blonde woman restrained to this contraption on an alien spaceship. It looked like she was being held prisoner and that the thing she was shackled to was also giving her power somehow. She seemed to be flowing with power and energy..."

Jed fell silent.

"And then what happened?" asked Calley.

“She said that she represented the will of something called the multiverse. She said that the multiverse was under threat from something new and that the current guardians of the multiverse - a people called the Freedom Collective - were leaderless. She said it was a feminist progressive utopia but that it needed to gear up for war and that it needed a progressive administration with the teeth to do what was necessary. A man that could dance with the devil in the pale moonlight. She said she wanted me to read up on the history of the multiverse but that she would give me something that would provide me with proof and let me get a head start on helping the Freedom Collective.” explained Jed.

Calley looked thoughtful.

“Well I certainly see why you thought the books were so different now.” said Toby.

Calley went to his desk as he pulled a key out of his pocket.

“See, I knew you wouldn’t believe me.” said Jed derisively. “Why did I pardon you anyway?”

“I have no idea, Sir.” said Toby dryly.

“Is it too late to rescind my Pardon?” asked Jed. There was a twinkle in his eye and a smile to his lips, belying the harshness of his words.

“Yes.” said Calley as he returned with something from the desk.

“That’s the thing isn’t it?” asked Toby. “Not the tablet computer but the other thing?”

“The experts think it’s some kind of remote control tied to your fingerprints and likely other biometrics. They also say that they can’t be sure but it seems to tap into the satellite network to establish some sort of GPS location. Specifically they think it will only work if you use it here.” said Calley.

“You must be really hated by your party for anyone to think that and let you be here when I’m here with it.” said Jed jokingly.

Calley smirked then held the device out to Jed. “A calculated risk. Aside from secret service the building has been evacuated. If I am being stupid then an old building and a bunch of old men go kaput but if I’m right I get to be the man best placed to take advantage of what you just got access to.”

“Okay but if this really does turn out to be a top secret stash of advanced technology then you are going to help me use it to help this Freedom Collective.” said Bartlet. He sounded like he was joking but Toby and Calley could see he wasn’t.

“Mr President, if this is what you say it is then I am setting up a National Health Service for America.” said Calley dryly.

Bartlet accepted the device and pressed the button.

A 2 meter diameter circle of glowing green energy appeared before them. Beyond the circle was what looked like the interior of a vast industrial facility. Technology Bartlet recognised from the books in the tablet computer could be seen beyond.

“Well now I feel like we owe those people that kept coming to us about aliens an apology.” said Toby dryly.

Calley smiled. “What do you say, Mr President, feel like running for President of the Multiverse?”

President Bartlet strode into the light.